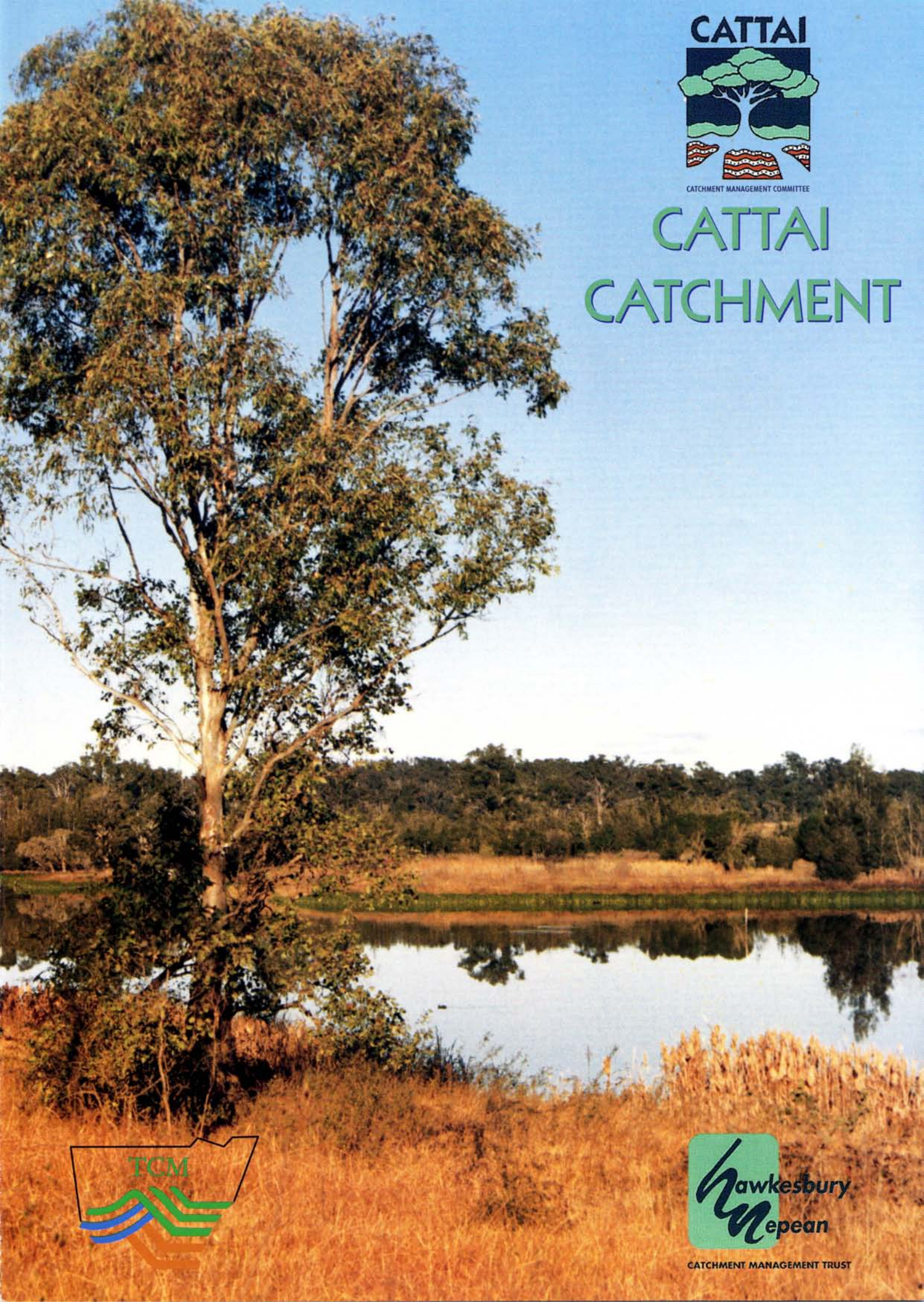

CATTAI
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
CATTAI
CATCHMENT
TCM
Hawkesbury
Nepean
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT TRUST

OUR CATCHMENT

Cattai Catchment Management Committee (CCMC) area extends from Wisemans Ferry in the North, along Old Northern Road to Castle Hill, across to Parklea in the south-west and then north again to Pitt Town. The Hawkesbury River between Wisemans Ferry and Pitt Town forms the north-western boundary. The area of the catchment is about 40,000 hectares.

The CCMC area includes the catchments of Cattai Creek, Little Cattai Creek, Pitt Town and Longneck Lagoons, and the area which drains from Maroota directly into the Hawkesbury River via a number of streams and wetlands. All creeks, streams and waterways flow into the Hawkesbury River.

The southern part of the catchment is highly urbanised, while the middle and northern parts are more rural in character, with residential, agricultural, extractive and recreational land uses. The catchment retains about half of its natural vegetation. Many people choose to live here for the rural character, the bushland and attractive scenery.

Fifty thousand people currently live in the Cattai CMC area. The majority of these live in the population centres in the southern part of the catchment around Castle Hill where the main shopping centres, light industrial areas and other recreational complexes are located. Rouse Hill is rapidly becoming urbanised, and is anticipated to house another 300,000 people over the next twenty years.

Our existing activities and land uses are already placing great strain on our natural resources. Creeks and waterways are largely polluted and much of our bushland has become degraded. This stress has been highlighted by continued outbreaks of toxic blue-green algae in the Hawkesbury.

Cattai CMC is working with the community, Councils and government agencies to find and implement better ways of looking after our natural and community resources.

Actinotus helianthi - (flannel flower)

Cattai Farm - Cattai National Park

Agriculture - adopting best practice guidelines

Streamwatch testing

Aboriginal rock engravings

Cover photo: Longneck Lagoon

Total Catchment Management

Community And Government Working Together

Total Catchment Management (TCM) is about co-ordinating community and government efforts on a catchment basis.

A catchment is the land area from which water drains to a common watercourse. The natural boundaries of a catchment rarely coincide with local government or other administrative boundaries.

Everyone lives and works in a catchment. TCM provides an opportunity for communication between all interests within the catchment. These include the community living in the catchment, those working in the catchment, industry, government authorities and agencies. TCM involves co-ordinating and integrating the resources, knowledge and abilities of State and local government and the community.

TCM links the community with government to achieve sustainable natural resource management. Total Catchment Management means less soil erosion, enhanced water quality, improved productivity, maintenance of biodiversity and a healthier environment for our future.

Housing Estate, Kellyville

Volunteers involved in local landcare activities

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Trust was formed in 1993 to help facilitate the integrated management of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and its catchment. The Trust is working towards providing a diverse, healthy and productive catchment for everyone. By establishing Catchment Management Committees (CMCs) in all the Hawkesbury-Nepean subcatchments, the Trust is better able to communicate with local communities.

There are 10 subcatchments within the Trust area of the river system: Upper Nepean, Middle Hawkesbury-Nepean, Blue Mountains, South Creek, Colo, Cattai, Macdonald, Berowra, Mangrove and Cowan.

The Cattai CMC

The Cattai Catchment Management Committee was appointed in 1994 by the Minister for Land and Water Conservation. Its role is to bring people and agencies together to identify where problems exist within the catchment, and how they can be overcome. This will ensure the conservation of the catchment's distinct character as well as its diverse natural and cultural heritage.

Cattai CMC brings together people from a range of backgrounds and interests with a variety of skills and knowledge to help make Cattai Catchment a better place for us to live and work, and for future generations to enjoy.

THE ISSUES

Agriculture

Agriculture in the Cattai

Agriculture is an important landuse in the Cattai Catchment. The main types of agriculture include market gardening, cut flower production, citrus and stone fruit orchards, cattle grazing and horse studs..

Agriculture adds to the diversity of landuses and people in the catchment. Cattai Catchment is recognised as a significant cut flower and market gardening area.

Implementing improved environmental management on farms maintains and enhances catchment values. The community, the Cattai Catchment Management Committee (CCMC) and government need to work with farmers to ensure sound environmental outcomes.

Important environmental issues include erosion, nutrient runoff, farm chemical use, native habitat management, odours, noise, dust and water reform.

Bushland

Cattai Catchment has approximately 200km^2 of bushland, comprising a wide range of plant and animal communities. This bushland covers about half the catchment, and contains numerous threatened species and several endangered ecological communities.

It represents a priceless asset for the people and for the conservation of biodiversity. New development in the catchment often requires the clearing of bushland. There needs to be a balance between the conservation of bushland and development.

Additionally, effective bushland conservation requires carefully considered plans of management. Many factors impact upon bushland including fire, weed invasion, feral animals, grazing, rubbish dumping, and recreational activities such as off-road vehicles, trail bikes and horse riding.

Extractive industries

Sandmine

Sand and clay extraction is undertaken in several places within the Cattai Catchment. The main extractive industry is situated at Maroota where friable sandstone is mined.

Extractive industries can cause atmospheric noise and ground water pollution, soil erosion and, as a result of high levels of vehicle usage, can effect road quality and traffic congestion.

Extractive industry needs to be carefully regulated and controlled to ensure that environmental and social impacts are mitigated.

The peri-urban nature of Cattai Catchment

Urban development

The Rouse Hill Development area has been identified by the State Government as an area which will cater for much of Sydney's urban expansion over the next 20 years.

As a result of this urban development, the population of the Cattai Catchment is expected to increase by 300,000. Urban expansion of this scale has the potential to greatly reduce the quality of life of people currently living in the catchment.

It also has the potential to severely impact on the natural environment. Urban development will need to be carefully planned and monitored to ensure that adverse effects are minimised.

Water quality

Stream pollution & dumping

The creeks of the Cattai Catchment drain into the Hawkesbury River and contribute to its water quality and flow. The water quality of creeks and streams in the catchment varies from pristine to quite polluted.

Everyone who lives, works or plays in the Cattai Catchment has a responsibility to help improve the water quality of the creeks and streams.

Good water quality is very important to the many people who use and appreciate our waterways. Retaining clear water will also help protect biodiversity and enhance the value of our catchment.

Wetlands: Nature's pollutants filter

Wetlands

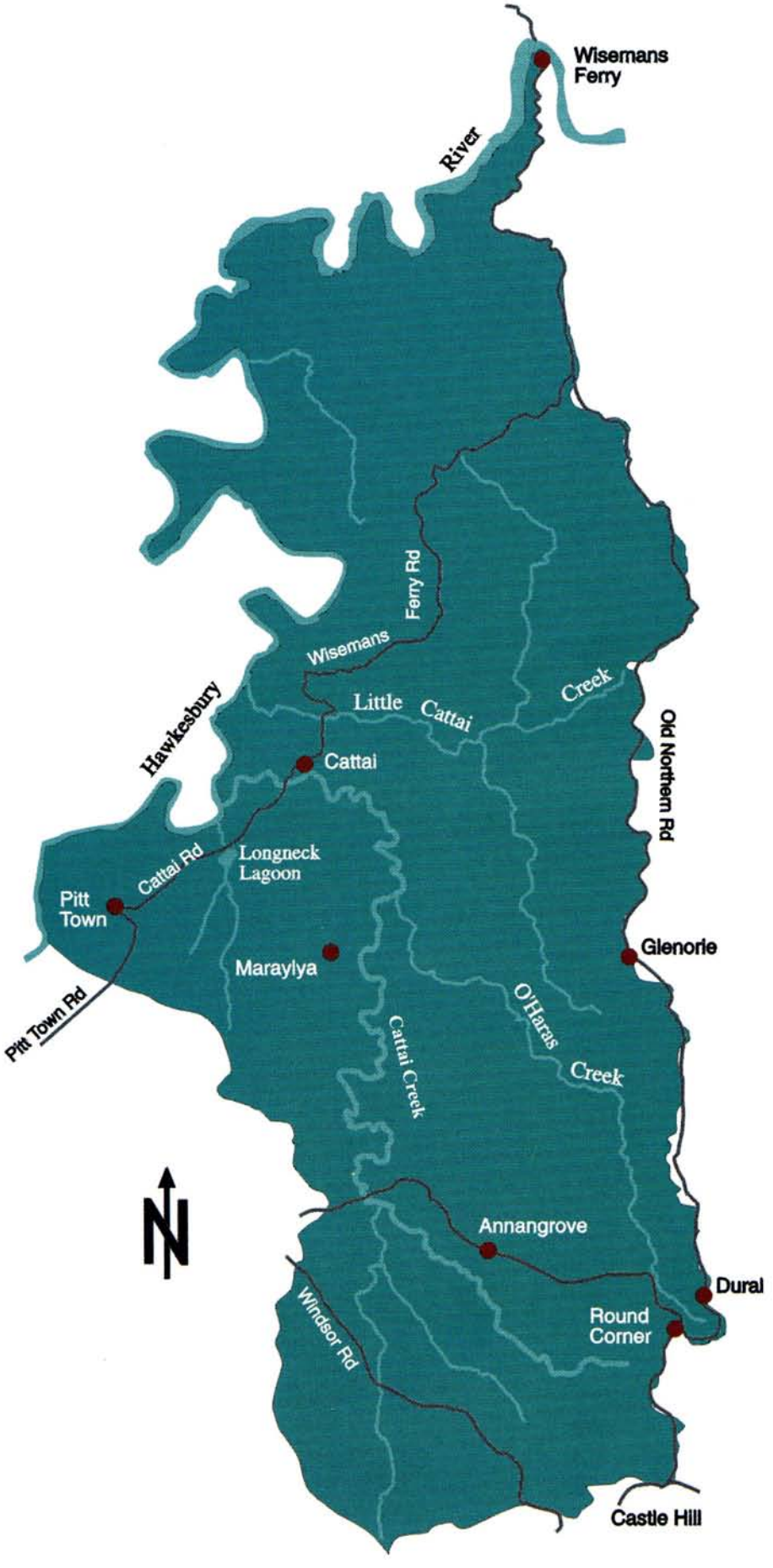
Wetlands are important for conserving biodiversity. To date, 41 wetlands have been mapped within the Cattai Catchment. Twenty of these have been identified by the State Government as being of regional significance, and are identified in the Sydney Regional Environment Plan 20 Hawkesbury-Nepean River.

Important wetlands occur in Cattai and Scheyville National Parks, Pitt Town Nature Reserve, and on private land. Some wetlands in the Cattai Catchment are used by migratory species of birds, including several which are listed on international treaties.

Wetlands have an important function in keeping waterways clean by filtering out sediments and pollutants. They have high aesthetic value and are used extensively for recreational purposes.

The wetlands are home to several species of animals and plants listed as Threatened in NSW. Wetlands are important habitats for conserving biodiversity.

CATTAI CATCHMENT



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

At home and at work

Many activities we do at home or at work can impact on our catchment. It is up to us to make sure that these impacts don't adversely effect the environment. Take the time to make the right decisions about the way you do things, the products you buy, and how you recycle. Collectively, we can help to conserve and improve the quality of our catchment.

Together

Why not get together with your neighbours to identify what you can do for your local catchment. Community action groups are also a great way to join forces with other people living in the Cattai Catchment. Volunteer groups. local councils, local businesses, schools and service groups can all do something positive for the environment. Cattai Catchment currently has a range of community based groups involved in Streamwatch and Greenhouse Parks, as well as in bushland and riverbank rehabilitation.

A rare sighting of a Koala in the Cattai

How to get started

The Cattai CMC, your local council, Landcare, and the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust can all provide information on existing community groups. Why not start your own! There are a range of areas that need to be addressed and the sharing of a variety of experiences and knowledge can help. Added support can often be found from government agencies, councils and many local businesses.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

Contact the Cattai CMC

The Cattai CMC will be happy to provide you with information about the Cattai Catchment, community action groups and ways to plan your own community project. The CCMC has established links with local government, the Hawkesbury-Nepean Trust and other agencies to help you become involved. It can also advise you on the different types of funding available to support local projects.

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Brochure produced by:
Castle Printing Company, Castle Hill

Printed on Recycled Paper